



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BANK EMPLOYEE INDICTED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., woman was indicted by a federal grand jury today for embezzling from Commerce Bank, where she was employed in the customer service department.

Elizabeth A. Perez, 35, of Independence, was charged in a 13-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City. **Perez** is a former employee of Commerce Bank, 720 Main St. in Kansas City.

Each count of the federal indictment alleges that, on separate occasions between Sept. 24 and Nov. 30, 2001, **Perez** transferred funds from the bank's library account to a savings account belonging to another individual. The library account, Graves explained, is a holding account where questioned or disputed bank transactions are placed until the matter is resolved or the funds claimed by the rightful party.

Perez allegedly caused the transfers, in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$2,000, without authority and with the intent to defraud Commerce Bank. The amount of the alleged embezzlement totals \$11,000.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney D. Michael Green. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow